

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-50 are pending in this application.

In an Office Action mailed on May 14, 2007, claims 15-37 and 47-50 were allowed and claims 1-14 and 38-46 were rejected. Applicant filed a request for reconsideration together with a Notice of Appeal in order to extend the time during which the Examiner could consider the request for reconsideration. In an Advisory Action, the Examiner maintained the rejection of claims 1-14 and 38-46.

By this amendment, Applicant has cancelled rejected claims 1-14 and 38-46 without prejudice or disclaimer, and added new claims 51-87. The substance of the instant amendments was discussed with the Examiner during a telephone call with the undersigned on January 8, 2007, and the Examiner indicated that these amendments would be entered and the application allowed. Applicant wishes to take this opportunity to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter and for allowing entry of this amendment after final rejection. No new matter has been presented.

For the Examiner's convenience, the allowability of the new claims is illustrated as follows:

Claims 1-14 and 38-46 have been cancelled. Claims 15-37 and 47-50 are allowed. Claims 15, 27, 47 and 48 are independent.

New method claims 51 and 52 and new method claims 53 and 54 depend directly from allowed independent method claims 15 and 27, respectively, and thus, are also allowable.

New claims 55-70 are apparatus counterparts to allowed method claims 15-26, 49 and 50 and allowable method claims 51 and 52, and thus, are also allowable.

New claims 71-83 are apparatus counterparts to allowed method claims 27-37 and allowable method claims 53 and 54, and thus, are also allowable.

New article of manufacture claims 84 and 85 and new article of manufacture claims 86 and 87 depend directly from allowed independent article of manufacture claims 47 and 48, respectively, and thus, are also allowable.

Applicant respectfully submits that the instant amendment places the application in condition for allowance by amending claims in a manner indicated as allowable over the cited art. The foregoing amendments are necessary to adequately cover the present invention using apparatus counterpart claims to the allowed method claims and to bring the claims more in line with the claims pending in a foreign counterpart application. These amendments were not presented earlier because the Applicant believed that the prior response(s) placed the application in condition for allowance for at least the reasons discussed in those response(s), and would have resulted in the allowance of both method and apparatus claims. Accordingly, entry of the present amendment as an earnest attempt to advance prosecution is respectfully requested under 37 CFR §§ 1.116 and 41.33.

For the above-stated reasons, this application is respectfully asserted to be in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests that a Notice of Allowance be mailed, thereby rendering the pending Appeal moot.

#### **AUTHORIZATION**

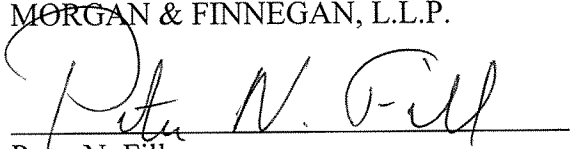
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required by this response, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 4208-4061.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 4208-4061.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Dated: January 14, 2008

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